

Falls Church Senior Citizens Commission
Minutes of Meeting
April 19, 2006

1. CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order by Chair Susan Pollack at 4:05 p.m.

2. ROLL CALL

Present: Bea Brady, Jan Greenberg, Mary Hood, Susan Pollack, Ann O'Neil

Staff: Letha Flippin, Kim Southern

3. APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES

The minutes for the February, 2006 meeting were approved unanimously.

4. NEW BUSINESS

Affordable Housing Presentation - Kim Southern, an intern working with Housing and Human Services, presented an overview of the affordable housing options available to Falls Church residents. There are two rental assistance programs: The Tenant Based Rental Assistance program, which provides rent subsidies to income eligible households for up to 18 months; and the rent relief program, which provides assistance to elderly or disabled residents. The other five programs focus on homeowners. The real estate tax relief program provides assistance to the elderly or disabled. The City has also worked with developers to create a stock of affordable dwelling units (ADU) in new housing projects. Currently, there are 14 occupied ADUs and 27 additional units that will be occupied in the next few years. The Affordable Housing Fund was established to help for-profit and nonprofit developers create new affordable housing in the City. The three additional programs, SPARC (Sponsoring Partnerships and Revitalizing Communities), Homestride, and down payment and closing cost assistance, all assist first-time low-income homebuyers with their purchases. Finally, Kim noted the next steps to be taken to increase our affordable housing stock, which are to create an affordable housing strategy to acquire, invest and build new affordable housing.

5. OLD BUSINESS

Older Americans Month Event - The Commission finalized plans for the Older Americans Month activity, which will be to participate in the Health Fair that will be held on Tuesday, May 23rd at the Senior Center. The Commission will have a table with information, and will give away lunch bags with the Commission logo on them. Mary Hood and Jan Greenberg agreed to purchase individually wrapped healthy snacks that can be given out with the bags, and Susan will purchase fruit or vegetables for attendees to eat as they visit. The DVD of "Falls Church Through the Eyes of its Seniors" will be playing in the background for attendees to view. It was decided that this event will replace the regular May meeting of the Commission.

6. CHAIRPERSONS REPORT - The Chair had no report.

7. STAFF REPORT - Letha Flippin reported that the annual survey of Senior Center participants will be conducted soon, and asked the Commission to review last year's survey and provide input. Letha distributed last year's survey and the responses that were received,

including the comments from respondents. The Commissioners felt that the questions about the lunch program may be unnecessary. It also was suggested that a question be added about parking issues and their impact on participation. Concern was also expressed about individuals (not just seniors) who park illegally around the Community Center. As in the past, it was noted that many attendees of the Senior Center are not City residents; the commission discussed why more City residents don't attend. It was felt that in general, seniors are healthier, wealthier and have many other activities so they do not have the time or interest in participating in the Senior Center.

Demographic Study - The Commission expressed interest in hearing a report on the results of the recent survey that HHS has conducted. Letha will arrange for this at a future meeting.

8. ADJOURNMENT– the meeting was adjourned at 5:20 p.m.

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